

proved fruitless. I could not induce him to utter a single sound, nor did he attempt to snarl or growl even under strong provocation. I noticed that whenever I stepped off a few paces, at each step he raised his body until he stood at his full height. At each step as I approached him again, he lowered himself until he lay flat on the ground with his head between his paws, in which position he remained as long as I stood beside him. He seemed exceedingly shy and timorous; but he was far too cunning to display any ferocity.

An otter, a fisher, a lynx or a marten would have growled, snarled and fought viciously under similar conditions.

I feel convinced that with a collar and chain, I could have led him home without difficulty. I put this opinion to the test, in the following manner. For the purpose of fastening the trap, I had cut down a balsam sapling about two inches in diameter, the root end of which I cut off square, into which I drove a staple. To this staple I locked the trap chain with a small padlock. I then replanted the tree exactly in the spot where it had grown, and where the wolves had been in the habit of seeing it night after night for weeks.

When I had completed my zoological experiments—never then expecting to tell you anything about them—I unlocked the chain and started towards home. The wolf arose and followed me quietly for about a quarter of a mile, when I accidentally tripped over a pine root and fell. Had I not known something about the history and character of my companion, there might have been, then and there, a tragedy of peculiar interest. The instant I fell, and before I attempted to rise, I turned my head quickly and looked my prisoner in the eye. I found him with his eyes flashing and his whole body gathered for a spring. The moment I caught his eye he cowered before my gaze. Had I not been prompt, it is quite within the bounds of possibility that my audience might not have heard my story. However, I was young, strong and active then, and you may rest assured that I could not have been silenced without a determined and sanguinary struggle.

Long before the occurrence of the incident just related, I had learned that it was dangerous to fall even in the presence of a domesticated wolf.

I need scarcely say that I did not trouble my amiable companion.